Outlier Detection: *Density and Partition-Based*

Mining Massive Datasets

Materials provided by Prof. Carlos Castillo — https://chato.cl/teach

Instructor: Dr. Teodora Sandra Buda — https://tbuda.github.io/

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Sources

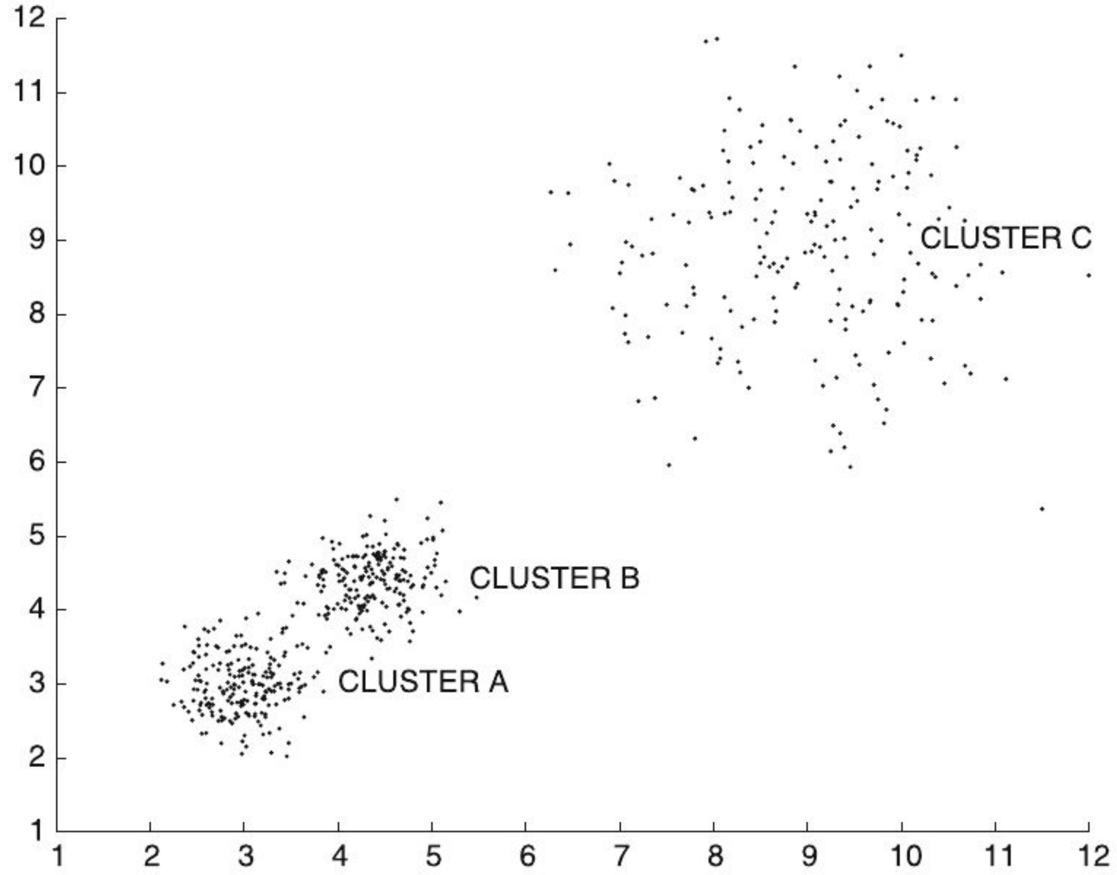
Liu, F. T., Ting, K. M., & Zhou, Z. H. Isolation forest. ICDM 2008.

(1) Eryk Lewinson: Outlier detection with isolation forest (2018)
(2) Tobias Sterbak: Detecting network attacks with isolation forests (2018)

Density-based methods

Density-based methods

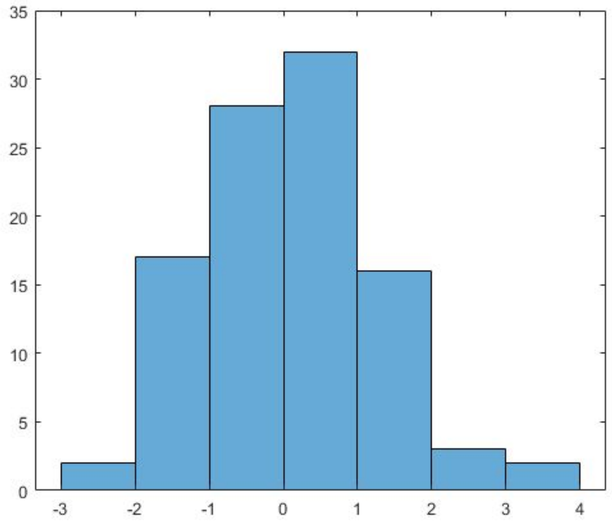
- Key idea:
  find sparse regions in the data
- Limitation:
  cannot handle variations of density



Histogram- and grid-based methods

Histogram-based method:

1. Put data into **bins**
2. Outlier score: *num* – 1, where *num* is the number of items in the same **bin**

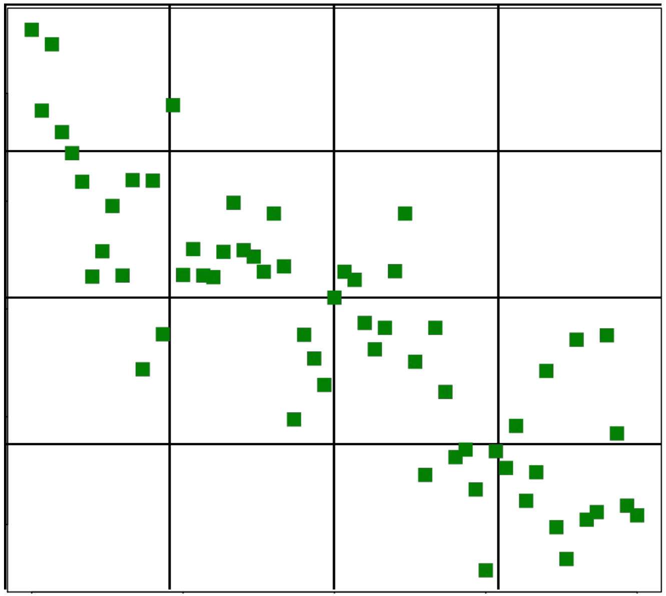


Clear outliers are alone or almost alone in a **bin**

Histogram- and grid-based methods

Grid-based method

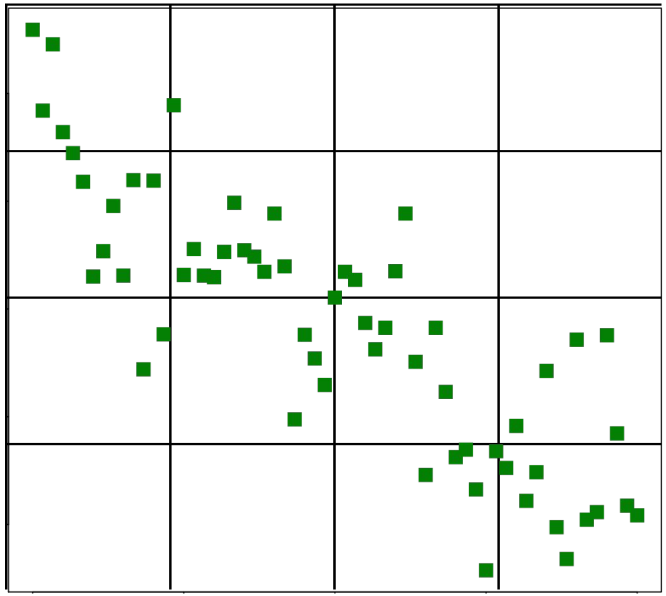
1. Put data into a **grid**
2. Outlier score: *num* – 1, where *num* is the number of items in the same **cell**



Clear outliers are alone or almost alone in a **cell**

Problems with grid-based methods

- How to choose the grid size?
- Grid size should be chosen considering data density, but density might vary across regions
- If dimensionality is high, then most cells will be empty



Kernel-based methods

- Given n points $\overline{X_1}, \overline{X_2}, \ldots, \overline{X_n}$

$$f(\overline{X}) = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} K_h(\overline{X} - \overline{X_i})$$

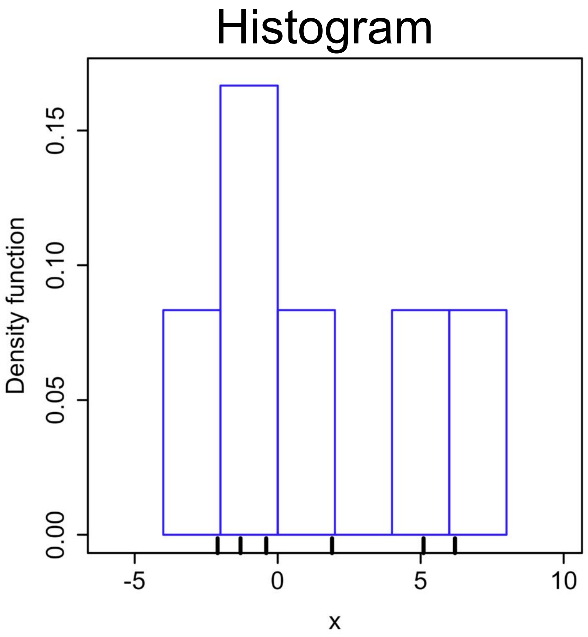
- K_h is a function peaking at X_i with *bandwidth* h
- For instance, a Gaussian kernel:

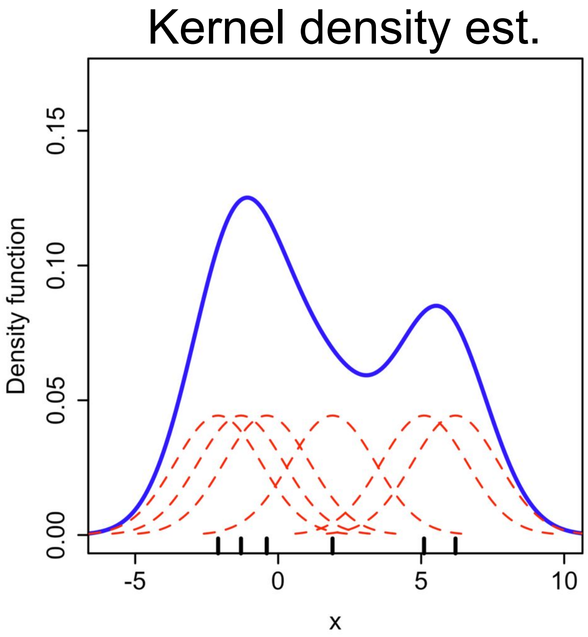
$$K_h(\overline{X} - \overline{X_i}) = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \cdot h}\right)^d \cdot e^{-\|\overline{X} - \overline{X_i}\|^2/(2h^2)}$$

Kernel-based methods (cont.)

- Example with a Gaussian kernel
  - *X = < -2.1, -1.3, -0.4, 1.9, 5.1, 6.2 >*
- Each K_h in **red**
- f = sum of K_h in **blue**

$$f(\overline{X}) = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} K_h(\overline{X} - \overline{X_i})$$





[[Wikipedia: Kernel density estimation](#)]

Information-theoretic models

- Describe “ABABABABABABABABABABABABABABABABAB”
  - “AB” 17 times
- Describe “ABABACABABABABABABABABABABABABABAB”
  - Minimum description length increased
- Information-theoretic models: learn a model, then look at increases in model size due to a data point

Partitioning-based method: isolation forest

Isolation forest method

- tree_build(X)
  - Pick a random dimension r of dataset X
  - Pick a random point p in [$\min_r(X)$, $\max_r(X)$]
  - Divide the data into two pieces: $x_r < p$ and $x_r \geq p$
  - Recursively process each piece

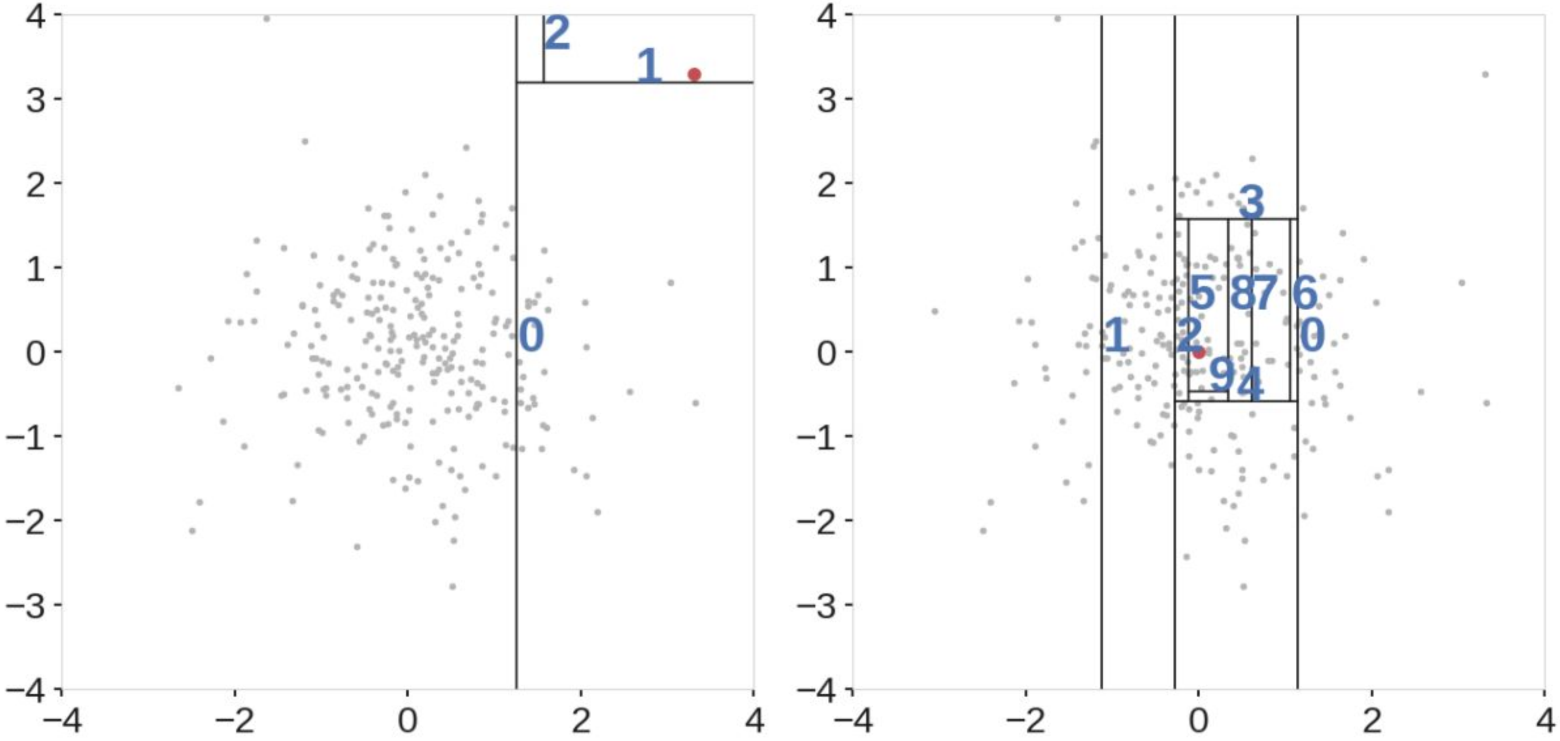
Stopping criteria for recursion

- Stop when a maximum depth has been reached

-or-

- Stop when each point is alone in one partition

Key: outliers lie at small depths



(a) Anomaly point

(b) Nominal point

https://towardsdatascience.com/outlier-detection-with-extended-isolation-forest-1e248a3fe97b

Outlier score

- Let c(n) be the average path length of an unsuccessful search in a binary tree of n items

$$c(n) = 2H(n-1) - (2(n-1)/n)$$

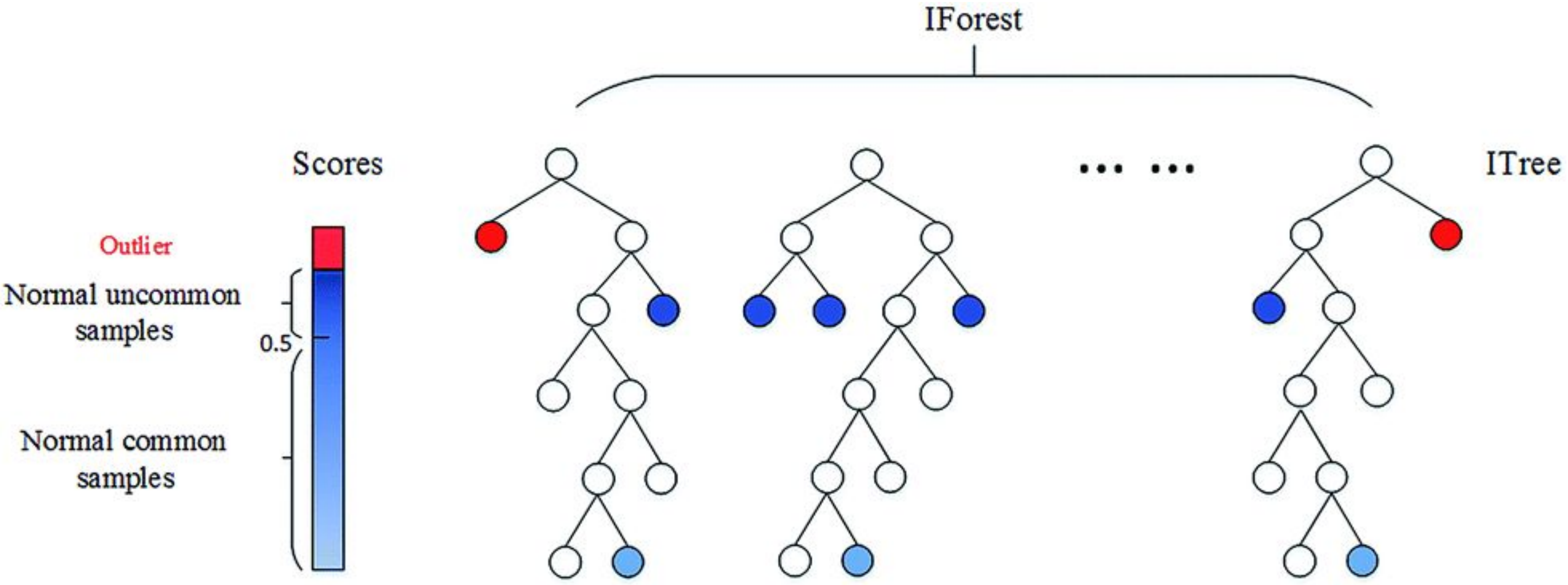
$$H(n) = \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{1}{k}$$

- h(x) is the depth at which x is found in tree
- Score:

$$\text{outlier}(x, n) = 2^{-\frac{E(h(x))}{c(n)}}$$

Outlier scores in isolation forests

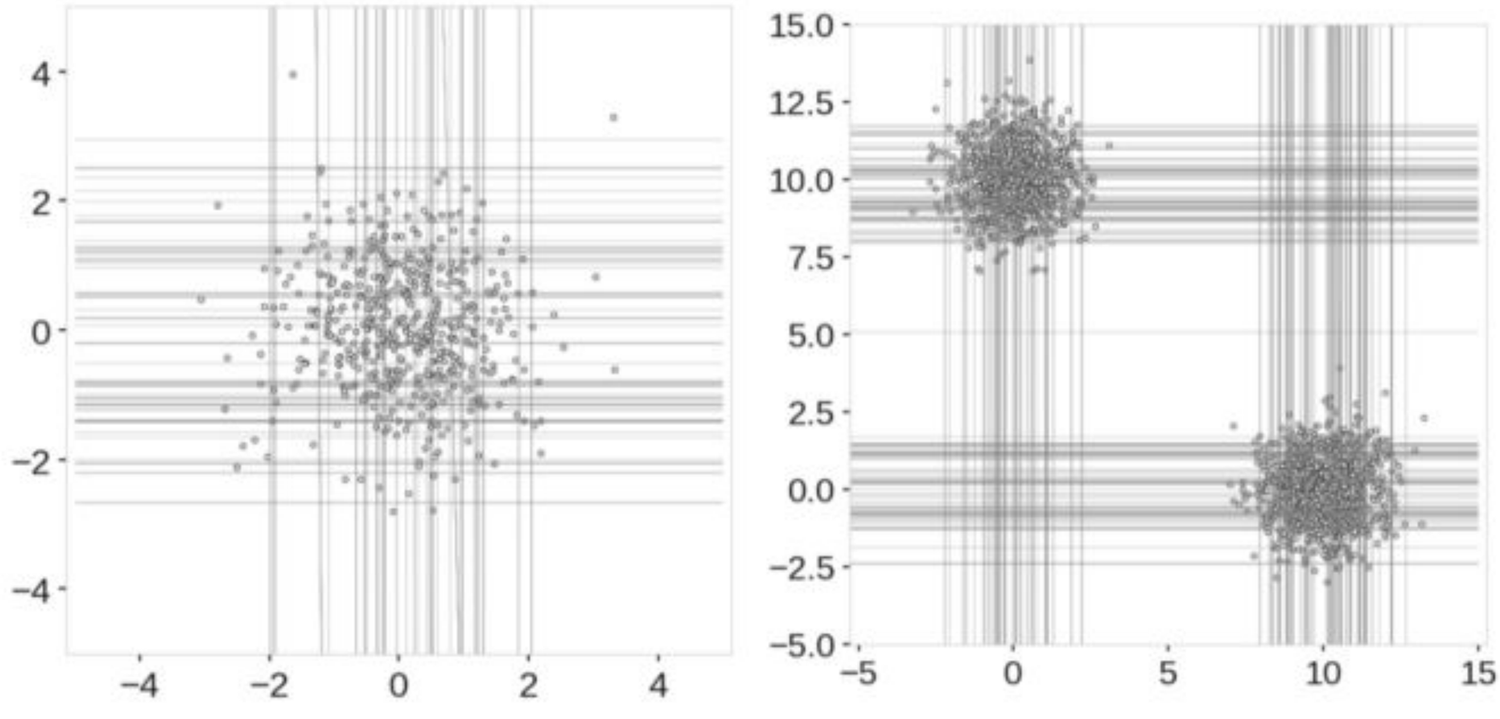
(each tree is built from a sub-sample of original data)



https://donghwa-kim.github.io/iforest.html

Example

(Note: here lines cross each other: we do not cross lines)

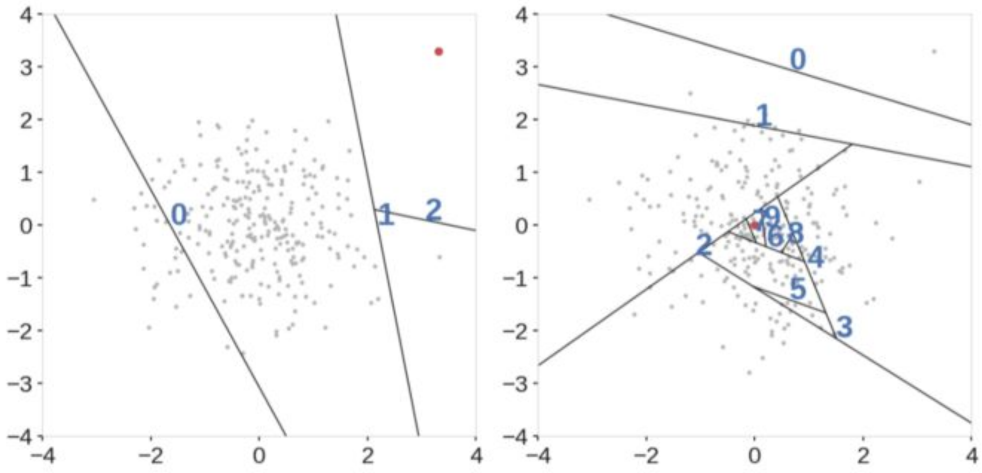


(a) Single blob

(b) Multiple Blobs

Extended Isolation Forest

- More freedom to partitioning by choosing a random slope and a random intercept



(a) Anomaly (b) Nominal

https://towardsdatascience.com/outlier-detection-with-extended-isolation-forest-1e248a3fe97b

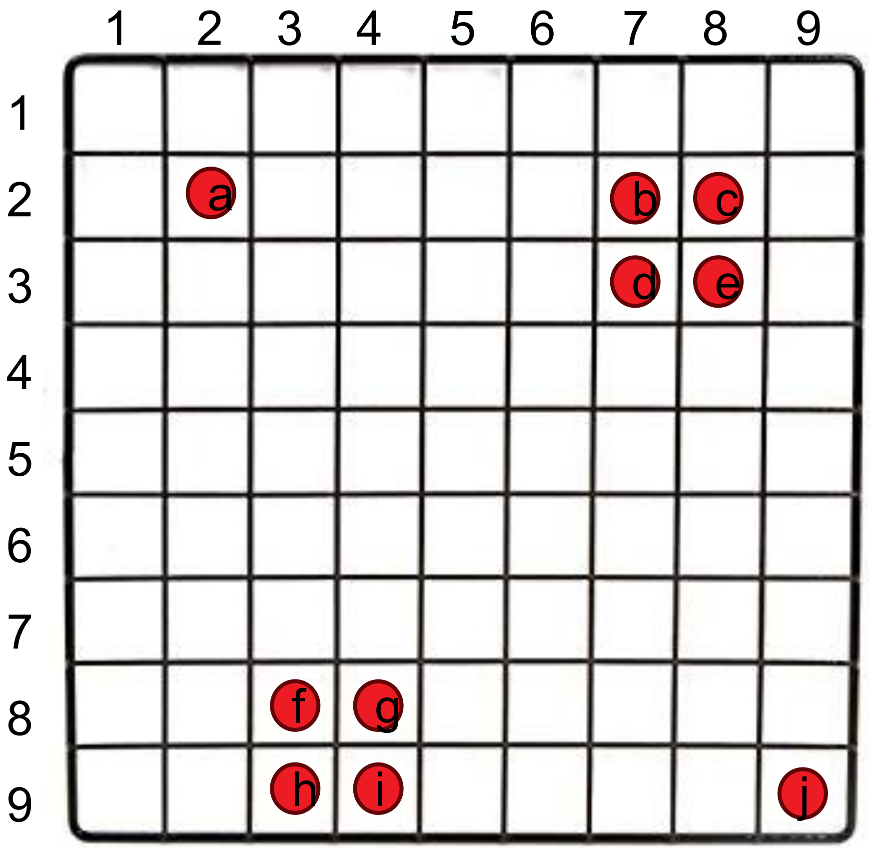
Exercise: isolation forest

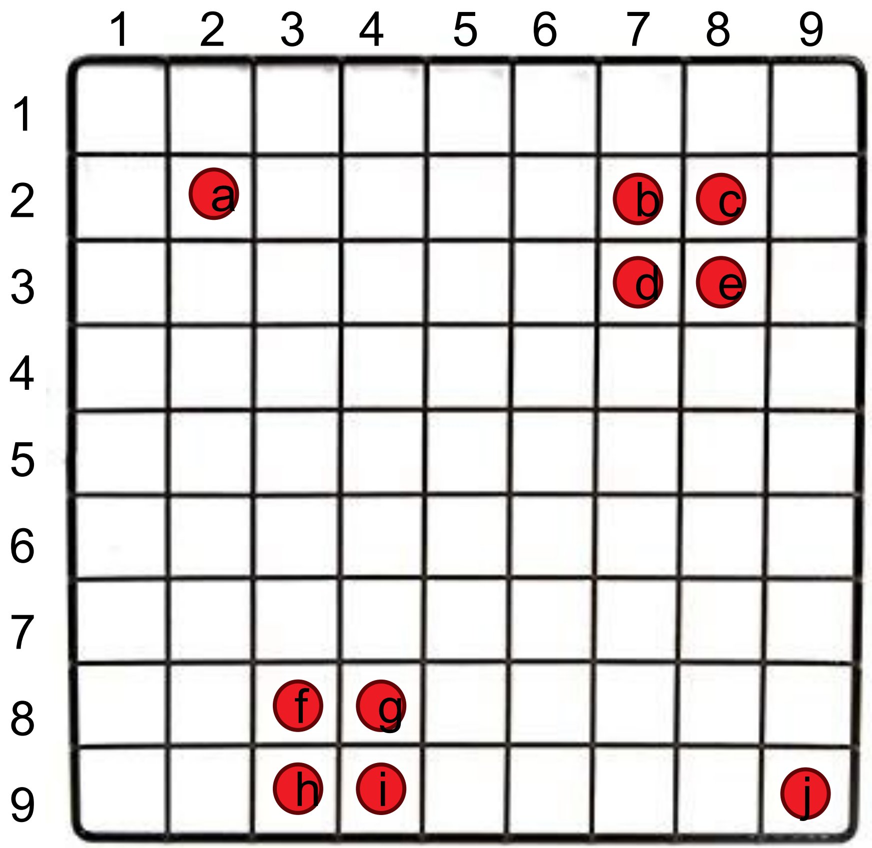
- Create one tree of the isolation forest by repeating 4 times:
  - Picking a sector containing >1 element
  - Picking a random dimension
  - Picking a random cut-off between min and max value along that dimension
  - Draw the line of your cut — do not cross lines, and label each line with a number 0, 1, 2, ...
- Stop when each point is isolated
- Label each point with its depth h(x)

This is normally repeated several times, in the end:

$$\mathrm{outlier}(x, n) = 2^{-\frac{E(h(x))}{c(n)}}$$

In this case c(10) = 2xH(9) – (2x9/10) ≃ 3.857 ≃ **4**




1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1
2
3
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5
6
7
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a
b
c
d
e
f
g
h
i
j

Example answer

- Let A = original data

1 First cut, applied over A

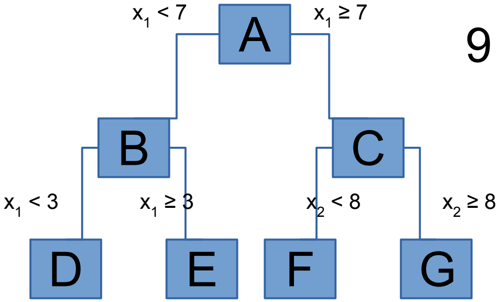
- Randomly pick dimension: x_1
- In part A along dimension x_1, min=2, max=9
- Randomly pick cut in [2,9]: 7
- Let B = A($x_1 < 7$)
- Let C = A($x_1 \geq 7$)

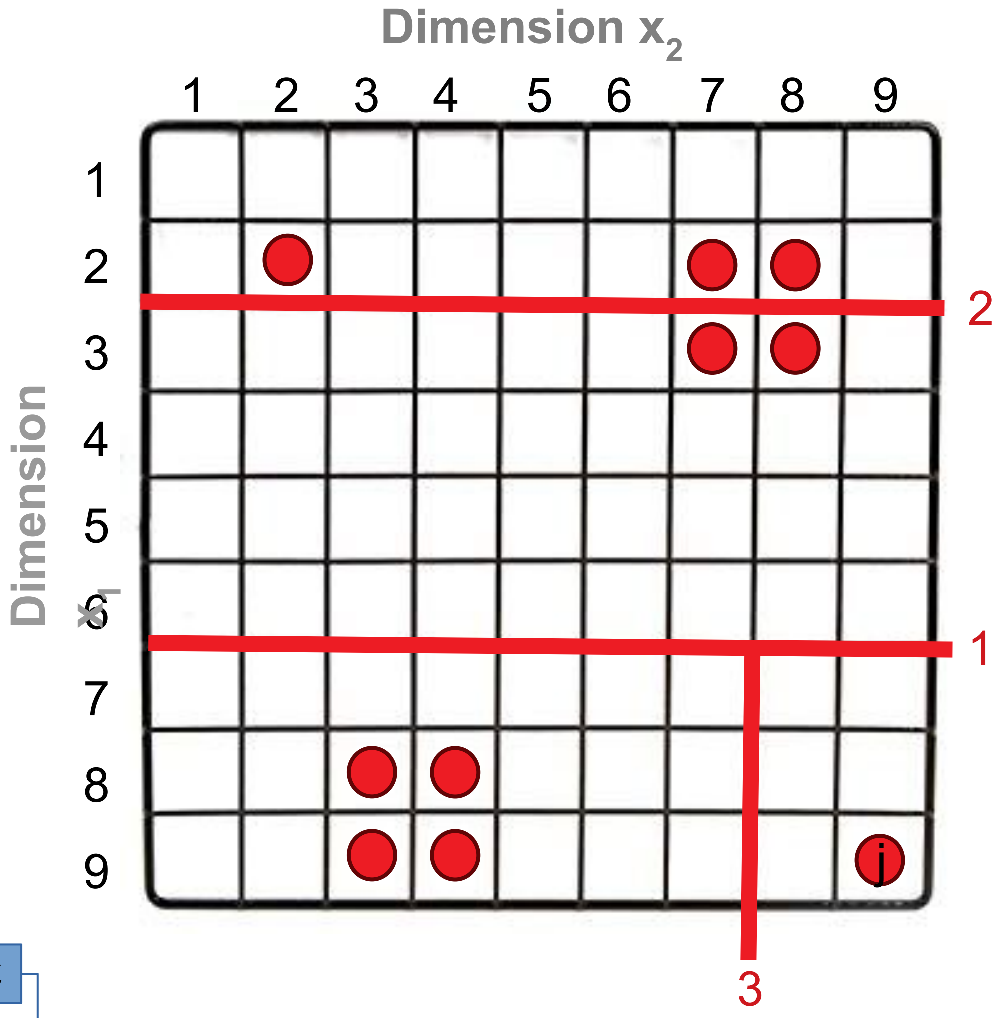
2 Second cut, applied over B

- Randomly pick dimension: x_1
- In part B along dimension x_1, min = 2, max=3
- Randomly pick cut in [2,3]: 3
- Let D = B($x_1 < 3$)
- Let E = B($x_1 \geq 3$)

3 Third cut, applied over C

- Randomly pick dimension: x_2
- In part C along dimension x_2, min=3, max=9
- Randomly pick cut in [3,9]: 8
- Let F = C($x_2 < 8$)
- Let G = C($x_2 \geq 8$)





h(j) = 3 (three cuts to isolate)

Summary

Things to remember

- Density-based methods
- Isolation forest

Exercises for TT19-TT21

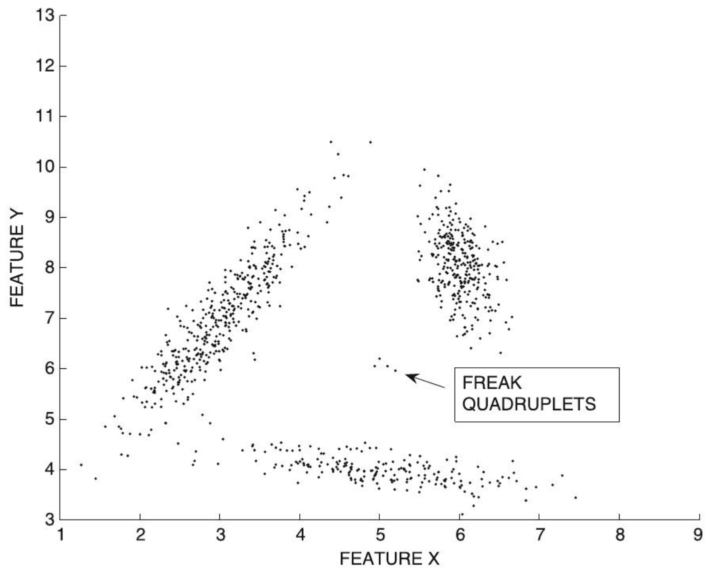
- Data Mining, The Textbook (2015) by Charu Aggarwal
  - Exercises 8.11 → all except 10, 15, 16, 17

Additional contents
(not included in exams)

Distance-based methods

Instance-specific definition

- The distance-based outlier score of an object x is its distance to its k^{th} nearest neighbor
- In this example of a small group of 4 outliers, we can set k > 3

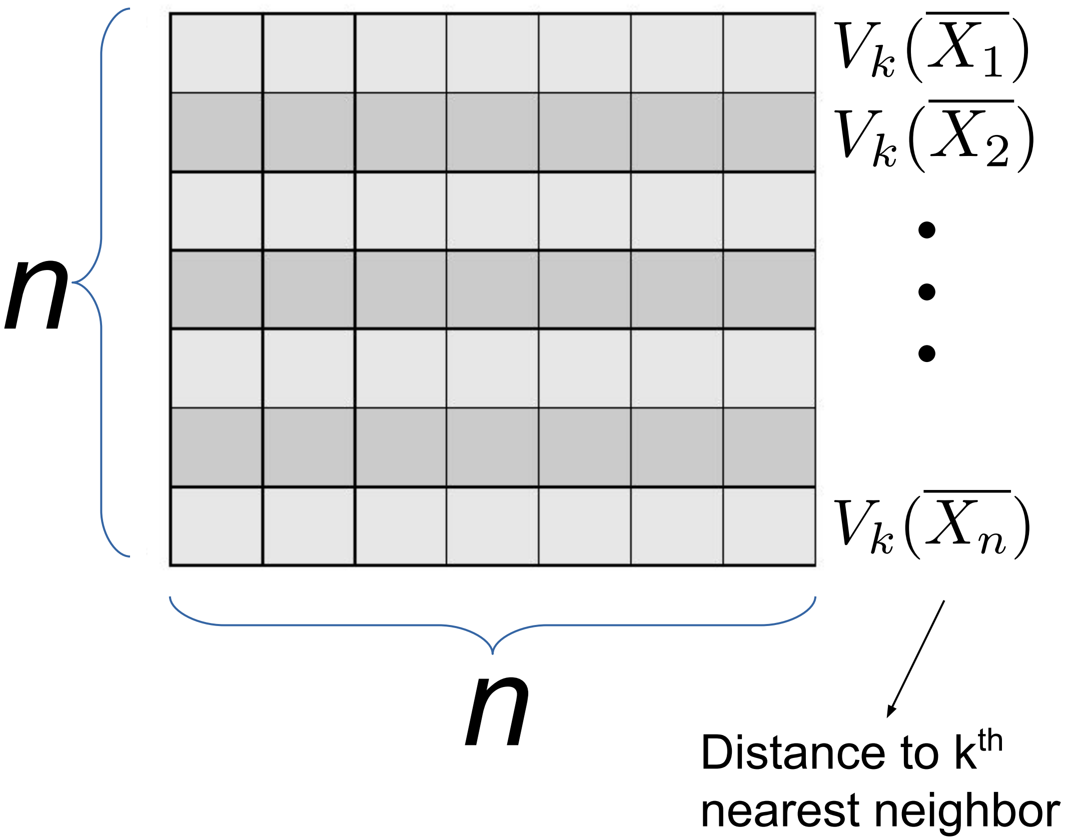


Problem: computational cost

- The distance-based outlier score of an object x is its distance to its k^{th} nearest neighbor
- In principle this requires $O(n^2)$ computations!
  - Index structure:
    useful only for cases of low data dimensionality
  - Pruning tricks:
    useful when only top-r outliers are needed

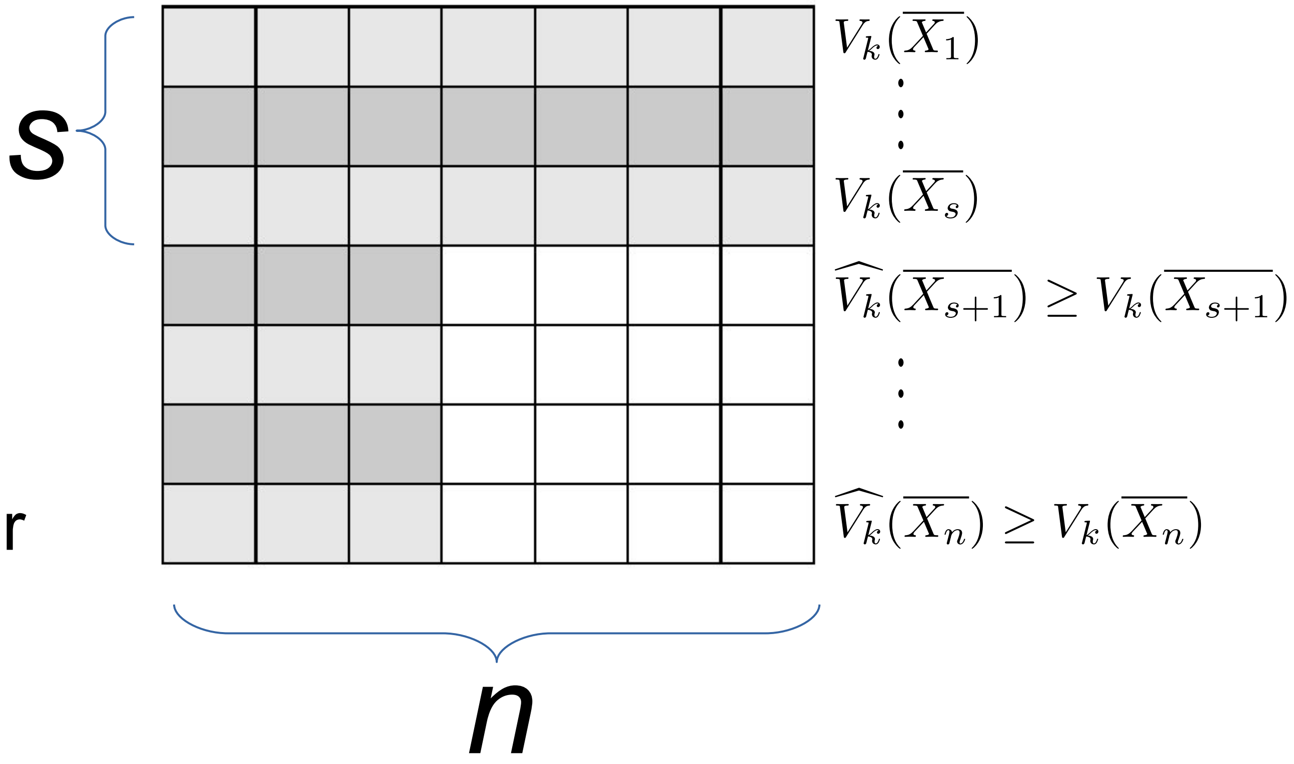
Problem: computational cost

- The distance-based outlier score of an item x is its distance to its k^{th} nearest neighbor
- In principle this requires:
  - $O(n^2)$ computations for evaluating the n x n distance matrix
  - $O(n^2)$ computations for finding the r smallest values on each row



Pruning method: sampling

- Evaluate s x n distances
- For points *1…s* we are OK
- For points *(s+1)…n* we know only upper bounds



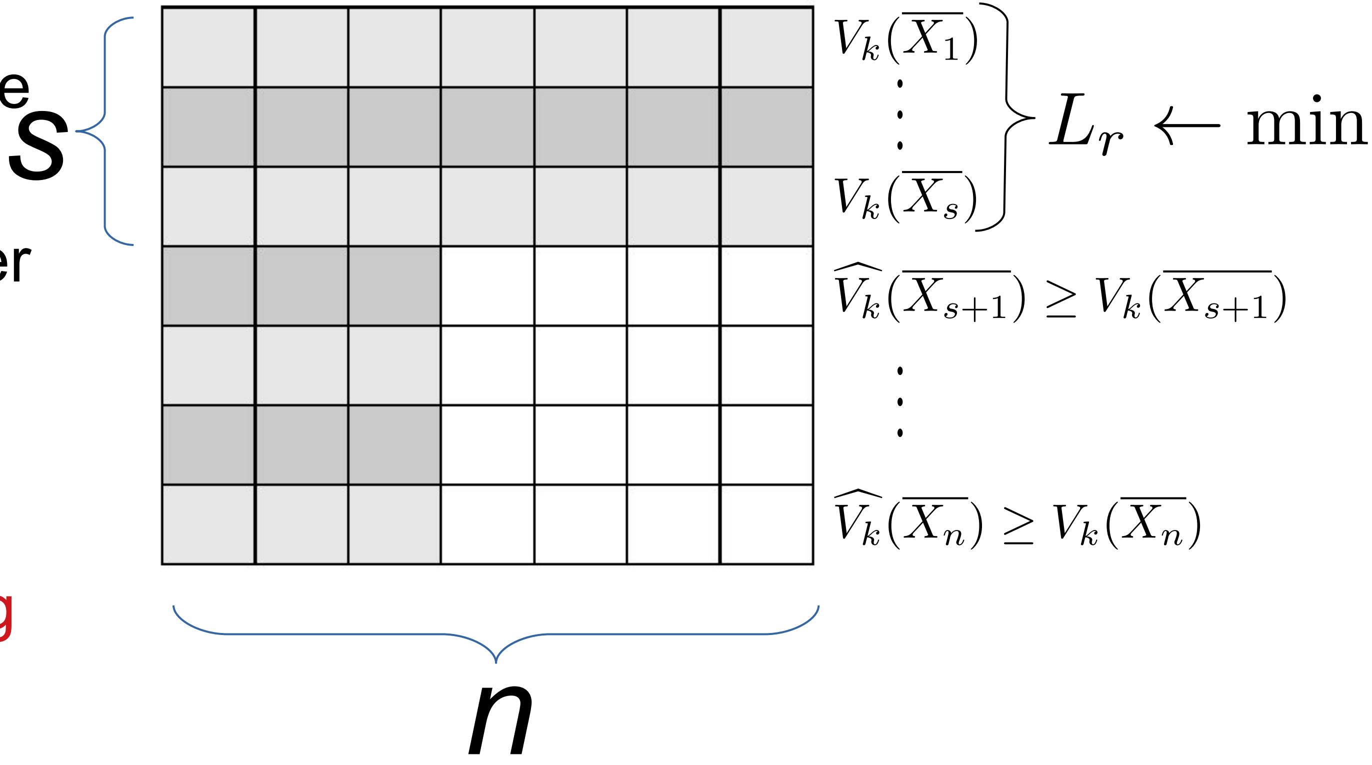
Pruning method: sampling (cont.)

From points

1...s we already know the r "winners"

(*r*≤*s* nodes with the larger distance to their kth nearest neighbor)

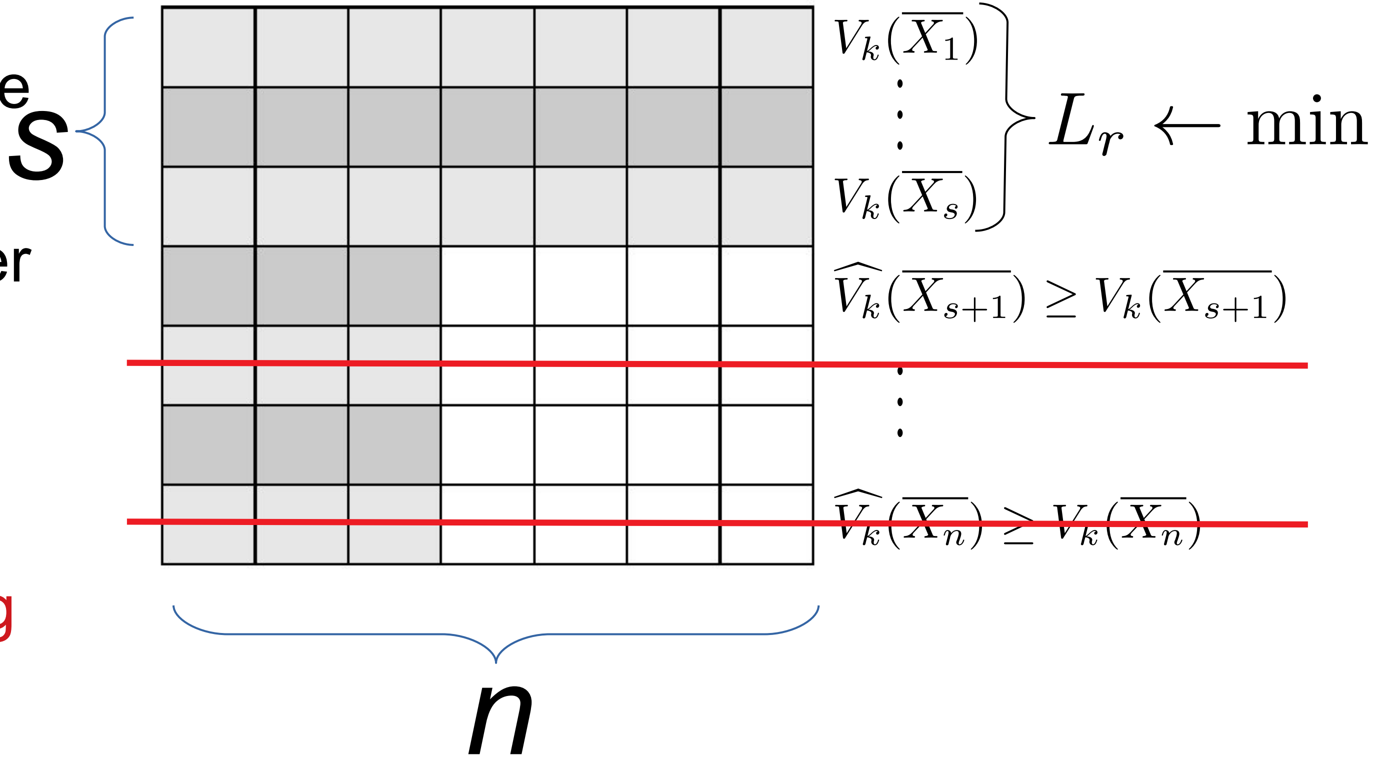
Any point having $V_k < L_s$ cannot be among the top r outliers



Pruning method: sampling (cont.)

From points *1…s* we already know the r "winners" (*r*≤*s* nodes with the larger distance to their k[th] nearest neighbor)

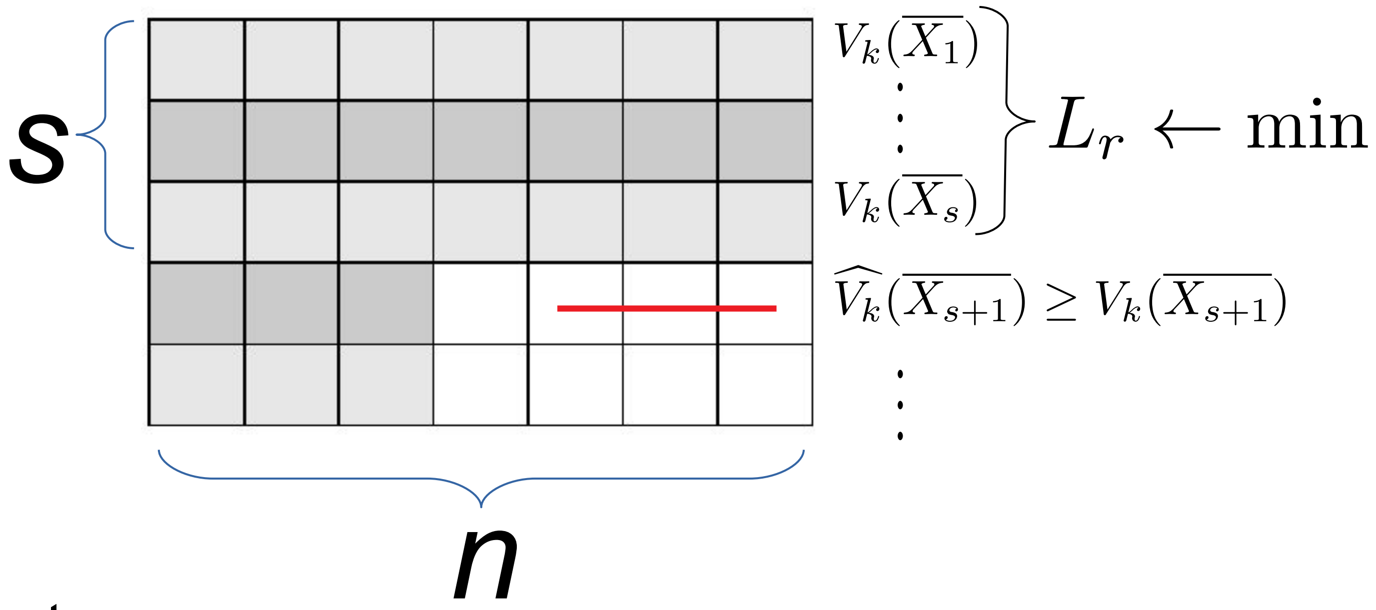
Any point having $V_k < L_s$ cannot be among the top r outliers



Pruning method: sampling (cont.)

Remove points
having $\widehat{V_k} \leq L_r$

Update L_r keeping
r largest values, and
stop computing for a
row if one already finds
k nearest neighbors in that row
that are all below distance L_r



Local outlier factor

Local Outlier Factor (LOF)

- Let $V_k(X)$ be the distance of X to its k-nearest neighbor
- Reachability distance

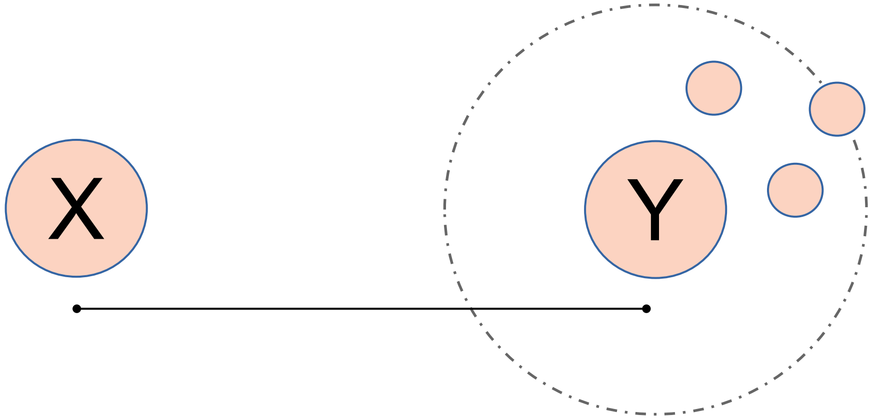
$$R_k(\overline{X}, \overline{Y}) = \max\{\mathrm{Dist}(\overline{X}, \overline{Y}), V_k(\overline{Y})\}$$

Local Outlier Factor (LOF) (cont.)

- $V_k(X)$: distance of X to its k-nearest neighbor
- Reachability distance

$$R_k(\overline{X}, \overline{Y}) = \max\{\mathrm{Dist}(\overline{X}, \overline{Y}), V_k(\overline{Y})\}$$

- Not symmetric
- Equal to simple distance for long distances
- Smoothed by $V_k(X)$ for short distances



Local Outlier Factor (LOF) (cont.)

- Reachability distance

$$R_k(\overline{X}, \overline{Y}) = \max\{\mathrm{Dist}(\overline{X}, \overline{Y}), V_k(\overline{Y})\}$$

- Average reachability distance

$$AR_k(\overline{X}) = \underset{\overline{Y} \in L_k(\overline{X})}{E} \left[R_k(\overline{X}, \overline{Y}) \right]$$

- $L_k(X)$ is the set of points within distance $V_k(X)$ of X (might be more than k due to ties)

Local Outlier Factor (LOF) (cont.)

$$R_k(\overline{X}, \overline{Y}) = \max\{\mathrm{Dist}(\overline{X}, \overline{Y}), V_k(\overline{Y})\}$$

$$AR_k(\overline{X}) = \underset{\overline{Y} \in L_k(\overline{X})}{E} \left[R_k(\overline{X}, \overline{Y})\right]$$

- Local outlier factor

$$\mathrm{LOF}_k(\overline{X}) = \underset{\overline{Y} \in L_k(\overline{X})}{E} \frac{AR_k(\overline{X})}{AR_k(\overline{Y})}$$

Outlier score

$$\max_k \mathrm{LOF}_k(\overline{X})$$

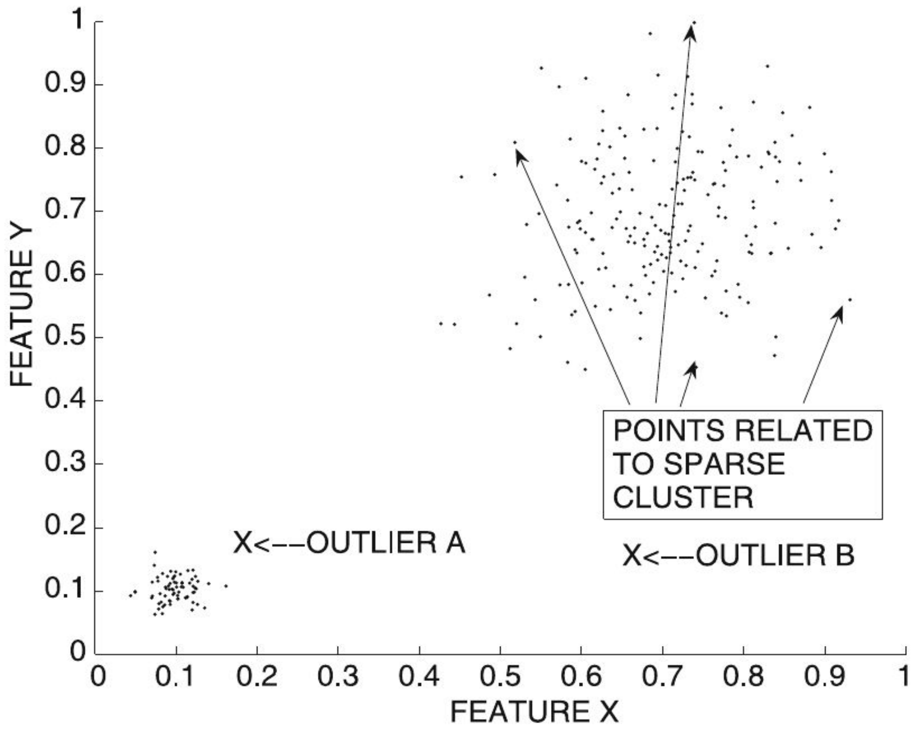
- Large for outliers, close to 1 for others

Local Outlier Factor (LOF) (cont.)

- Local outlier factor

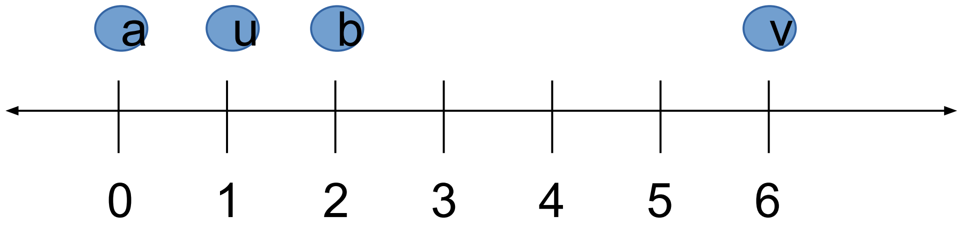
$$\mathrm{LOF}_k(\overline{X}) = \underset{\overline{Y} \in L_k(\overline{X})}{E} \frac{AR_k(\overline{X})}{AR_k(\overline{Y})}$$

- LOF values for points inside a cluster are close to one if cluster is homogeneous
- LOF values much higher for outliers: they are computed in terms of average distances of near-by clusters



Exercise

compare outlier score LOF(u), LOF(v)



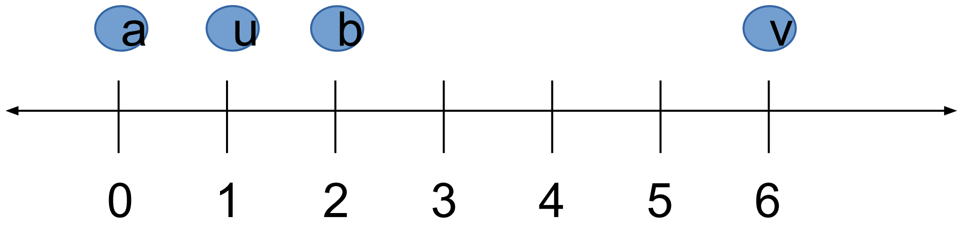
- Let k=2
- $LOF_2(u)$ = E[{$AR_2(u)$ /$AR_2(a)$, $AR_2(u)$/$AR_2(b)$}] = ________
- $LOF_2(v)$ = E[{$AR_2(v)$ /$AR_2(b)$, $AR_2(v)$/$AR_2(u)$}] = ________
- $AR_2(u)$ = E[{$R_k(u,a)$, $R_k(u,b)$ }] = _______
- $AR_2(v)$ = E[{$R_k(v,b)$, $R_k(v,u)$ }] = _______
- $AR_2(a)$ = E[{$R_k(a,u)$, $R_k(a,b)$ }] = ______
- $AR_2(b)$ = E[{$R_k(b,u)$, $R_k(b,a)$ }] = ______
- $R_k(a,u)$ = ____; $R_k(a,b)$ = _____; $R_k(b,u)$ = ______; $R_k(b,a)$ = _______
- $R_k(u,a)$ = _____; $R_k(u,b)$ = ______; $R_k(v,b)$ = _______; $R_k(v,u)$ = ______
- V_2 = distance to 2nd nearest neighbor: $V_2(u)$ = _____ ; $V_2(v)$ = _____; $V_2(a)$ = _____ ; $V_2(b)$ = _____

$$\mathrm{LOF}_k(\overline{X}) = \underset{\overline{Y} \in L_k(\overline{X})}{E} \frac{AR_k(\overline{X})}{AR_k(\overline{Y})}$$

$$AR_k(\overline{X}) = \underset{\overline{Y} \in L_k(\overline{X})}{E} \left[R_k(\overline{X}, \overline{Y}) \right]$$

$$R_k(\overline{X}, \overline{Y}) = \max\{\mathrm{Dist}(\overline{X}, \overline{Y}), V_k(\overline{Y})\}$$

Answer



- Let k=2
- $LOF_2(u) = E[\{AR_2(u)/AR_2(a), AR_2(u)/AR_2(b)\}] = (1.33+1.33)/2 = 1.33$
- $LOF_2(v) = E[\{AR_2(v)/AR_2(b), AR_2(v)/AR_2(u)\}] = (3+2.25)/2 =$

$$\mathrm{LOF}_k(\overline{X}) = \underset{\overline{Y} \in L_k(\overline{X})}{E} \frac{AR_k(\overline{X})}{AR_k(\overline{Y})}$$

- $AR_2(u) = E[\{R_k(u,a), R_k(u,b)\}] = 2$
- $AR_2(v) = E[\{R_k(v,b), R_k(v,u)\}] = 4.5$

$$AR_k(\overline{X}) = \underset{\overline{Y} \in L_k(\overline{X})}{E} [R_k(\overline{X}, \overline{Y})]$$

- $AR_2(a) = E[\{R_k(a,u), R_k(a,b)\}] = 1.5$
- $AR_2(b) = E[\{R_k(b,u), R_k(b,a)\}] = 1.5$
- $R_k(a,u) = 1$; $R_k(a,b) = 2$; $R_k(b,u) = 1$; $R_k(b,a) = 2$
- $R_k(u,a) = 2$; $R_k(u,b) = 2$; $R_k(v,b) = 4$; $R_k(v,u) = 5$

$$R_k(\overline{X}, \overline{Y}) = \max\{\mathrm{Dist}(\overline{X}, \overline{Y}), V_k(\overline{Y})\}$$

- V_2 = distance to 2^{nd} nearest neighbor: $V_2(u) = 1$; $V_2(v) = 5$; $V_2(a) = 2$; $V_2(b) = 2$